

Nation's debt limit, knowing that it would fail. The vote occurred specifically after the stock market closed because they knew the harsh effect that this game could have on the market. This was simply an effort to distract the public away from the disastrous attempt to end Medicare as we know it.

Under their plan, from day one seniors will see an increase in the cost of prescription drugs and preventive health care. They no longer want to discuss the vote they took to end Medicare and force seniors to pay more for less.

We all agree that smart, responsible budget cuts are needed. That is why Democrats and Republicans from the House, the Senate, and the administration are working together on a plan. We should allow the negotiators to continue their work in good faith with open discussions on the future of our economy and how to decrease our deficit.

Mr. Speaker, now is not the time to play games with the American public. We must focus on creating jobs, jobs, and more jobs, and move our economy forward.

ROBERT F. ELLSWORTH TRIBUTE

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a former Congressman from Kansas's Third Congressional District who recently passed. Robert F. Ellsworth served Kansas in the United States Congress for three terms during the 1960s. He was a proud Jayhawk, graduating from the University of Kansas, and he served our country admirably in both World War II and the Korean War as an officer in the United States Navy.

He was known as a candid and independent-minded legislator during his tenure in Congress. A personal adviser to President Richard Nixon and a confidant of Kansas Senator Bob Dole, he also served as an ambassador to NATO and as the Deputy Secretary of Defense under President Gerald Ford. After leaving politics, he founded Hamilton BioVentures, a company focusing on investment in emerging life science technologies.

He is survived by his wife, Eleanor; children William and Anne; as well as stepchildren John, Sarah, and William. My heart, and the heart of the Third District, is with him and his family during this difficult time.

HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS

(Mr. SABLAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, it's "getting ridiculous." That's what Saipan Chamber of Commerce President Doug Brennan said about the Department of Homeland Security's failure to issue

regulations implementing Federal immigration in the Northern Mariana Islands. And I agree, it is getting ridiculous.

Three years since the law was enacted, 18 months since it took effect, two oversight hearings, letters from congressional leaders, meeting after meeting, and still no regulations. Workers don't know what their status will be 5 months from now. Businesses can't plan for the future. "It's putting the brakes on the economy," the chamber president says. And what does DHS say? The regulations will be released when the regulations are released.

That is no way for a Federal agency to fulfill its responsibilities. We will get to it when we get to it? Federal immigration was supposed to benefit the Marianas, improve the economy. Instead, it's making things worse. As we think about funding Homeland Security today, Homeland Security should be explaining why it isn't doing its job issuing these long-overdue regulations for the Northern Mariana Islands.

DEBT LIMIT VOTE AS POLITICAL STUNT

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, last night our Republican colleagues scheduled an empty vote on the debt ceiling, a political stunt with no serious plan. Last week, the majority leader tried to use a natural disaster as political leverage in their ideological fight over the budget. And last month and again today, Republicans propose ending Medicare as we know it to pay for tax giveaways for millionaires and giant oil companies.

I'm holding another town hall meeting tomorrow, telephone town hall, with my constituents to talk about these issues and what our national priorities should be. The Republican extreme ideological war is a disturbing trend, using national emergencies, the full faith and credit of the United States, and our seniors' health care as if they're bargaining chips. The American people and the Missourians I represent deserve better.

It's time to come together like adults to find serious solutions to our complex problems. And it's time to stop threatening Medicare, important institutions, our national credit, and the national commitment to lend a hand to those in need, and especially those suffering through natural disasters. We can solve this without trying to scare markets or scare seniors. Let's get serious about reducing our deficit and growing jobs.

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BLAME EVERYTHING FOR DEBT

(Mr. PERLMUTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, listening to some of the Republicans that were speaking here earlier today, they want to blame Medicare, early childhood education, grants to firefighters for the debt that we have when everybody knows that at the end of the Clinton administration, this country was running a surplus.

Then we had Bush tax cuts; that's about a trillion dollars. Then we have a couple wars; that's a trillion dollars. Then there is a collapse on Wall Street under the Bush administration. That's \$2 trillion. That will turn anybody's budget upside down.

But the Republicans want to take it out of Medicare. They want to dismantle Medicare. They have never liked Medicare to begin with because it really works for middle America, for our seniors. We can't let that happen. We cannot allow them to dismantle Medicare just because of these other things. They want to protect millionaires, billionaires and oil companies. We are not going to let them do that.

REPUBLICANS HAVE VIVID IMAGINATION

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot in the media about the political tea party. You know, there is another kind of tea party; that's where children play with their imaginary friends.

We saw an example of that kind of imagination last night in this Chamber. We saw Republicans bring a bill to the floor and then vote to defeat it, not to raise the debt ceiling in spite of the fact that they passed a budget that will raise the national debt by \$8 trillion over the next 10 years. They imagine that that \$8 trillion will magically disappear.

Another example of their vivid imagination is believing that the American people will sit back while they end Medicare, turn over seniors' health care to insurance companies and ask them to pay up to 70 percent of the cost of their health care.

This is not an imaginary world. These are real people with real problems, and the American people are not going to sit back while the Republican Party plays with their imaginary friends.

JOBS WITHOUT CREDIT CHECKS

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday the New York Times editorially commended bills that give people an opportunity to get jobs without having credit checks run on them. In this country today, credit checks are run on almost 65 percent of all job applicants, and sometimes they are used to deny people jobs.